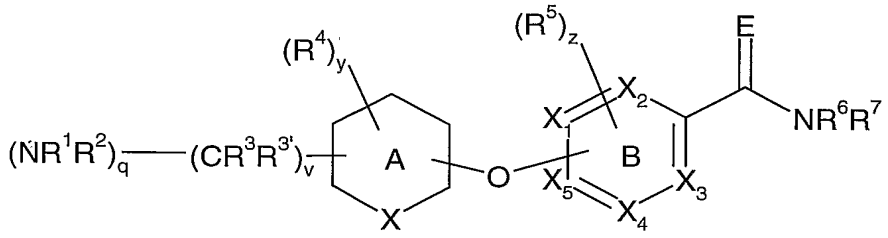
We claim:

1. A compound of formula (I)



I

wherein

each of X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, and X_5 is C, CH, or N; provided that ring B has no more than 2 nitrogen atoms;

X is NH or CH_2, so that ring A is cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, or piperidinyl;

E is NH or O;

v is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

q is 0 or 1, provided that when the A-ring is cyclohexyl or cyclohexenyl q is 1 and provided that v and q are not simultaneously 0;

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, aryl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkylaryl, heterocyclyl, C_1-C_{10} alkylheterocyclic, -C_1-C_8 alkylC(O)C_1-C_8 alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$(CO) C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl-, -C_2-C_8 alkylCH(OH)aryl, -, -CO(O)C_1-C_8alkyl, -SO_2C_1-C_8alkyl, -SO_2C_1-C_{10} alkylaryl, -SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylheterocyclic, -C_1-C_8 alkylcycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_nC(O)OR^8$, -$(CH_2)_nC(O)R^8$, -$(CH_2)_mC(O)NR^8R^8$, and -$(CH_2)_mNSO_2R^8$; wherein each of the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, and aryl groups are optionally substituted with one to five groups independently selected from halo, C_1-C_8 haloalkyl, C_1-C_8 thioalkyl, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -C(O)C_1-C_8 alkyl, -SO_2C_1-C_8 alkyl, -SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -C_1-C_8 alkylcycloalkyl; and wherein R^1 and R^2 may optionally combine with each other to form a 4, 5, 6, or 7-membered nitrogen-containing heterocycle which nitrogen-containing heterocycle may further have substituents selected from the group consisting of amino, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, aryl, C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -C(O)C_1-C_8 alkyl, -CO(O)C_1-C_8 alkyl, halo, oxo, C_1-C_8 haloalkyl;

R^3 and $R^{3'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkylcycloalkyl, or -C_1-C_8 alkylaryl; C1-C8 alkylheterocyclic; or R^3 and $R^{3'}$ combine to form a C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_8 cycloalkenyl, or C_5-C_{10} heterocyclic;

R^4 and R^5 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, -C_2-C_8 alkynyl, -C_1-C_8 alkoxyalkyl, C_1-C_8 thioalkyl, halo, C_1-C_8 haloalkyl, -C_1-C_8 alkoxyhaloalkyl, aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -$C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, or -$C(O)OC_1$-C_8 alkyl, -C_1-C_8 alkylamino, -C_1-C_8 alkylcycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_mC(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, and $(CH_2)_nNR^8R^8$, wherein each R^4 or R^5 is attached to its respective ring only at carbon atoms, and wherein y is 0, 1, 2, or 3; and wherein z is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

R^6 and R^7 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, -$C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, -SO_2C_1-C_8 alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylheterocyclic, aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, -C_1-C_6 alkylcycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_nC(O)R^8$, -$(CH_2)_mC(O)NR^8R^8$, and -$(CH_2)_mNSO_2R^8$; wherein each of the alkyl, alkenyl, and aryl groups are optionally substituted with one to five groups independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, aryl, and C_1-C_8 alkylaryl; and wherein R^6 and R^7 may independently combine with each other to form a 4, 5, 6, or 7-membered nitrogen-containing heterocycle which nitrogen-containing heterocycle may optionally have substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, aryl, -C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -$C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, -$CO(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, -C_1-C_8 alkylamine, amino, halo, and haloalkyl;

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, -$C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, or -$C(O)OC_1$-C_8 alkyl; and wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and m is 1, 2, or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, enantiomer, racemate, diastereomer or mixture of diastereomers thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein the A-ring is cyclohexyl.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the B-ring is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, and pyridazine.

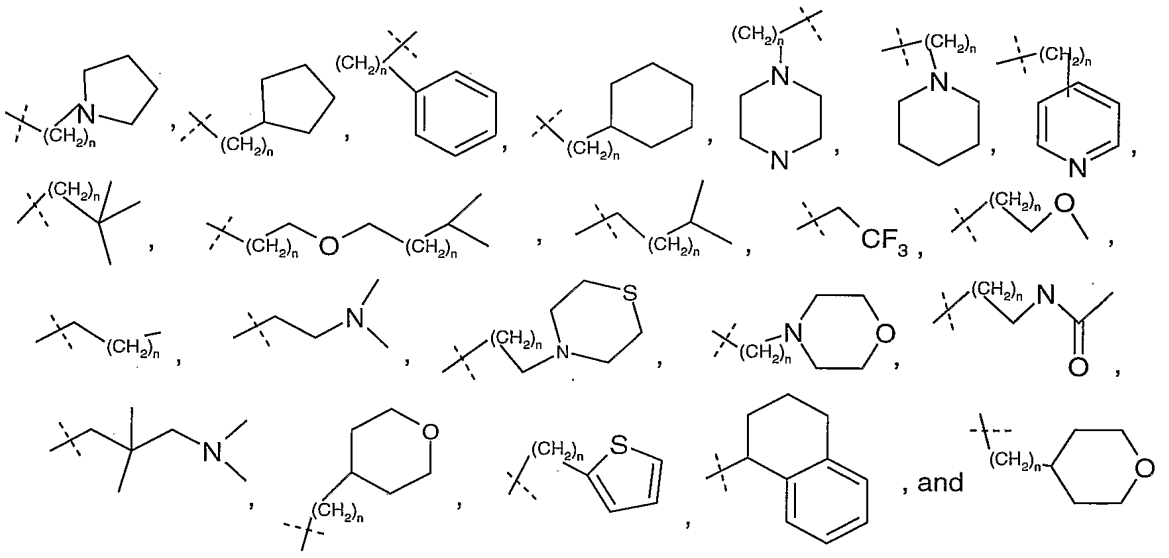
4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the A-ring is piperidinyl.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein E is an oxygen atom.

6. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein y is 0, 1, or 2, and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, phenyl, and benzyl.

7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein z is 0, 1, or 2, and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, phenyl, and benzyl.

8. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, phenyl,



and wherein n is 1, 2, or 3.

9. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^6 and R^7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, phenyl.

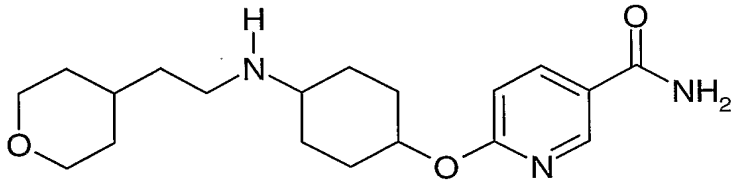
10. A compound according to of Claim 1 wherein E is an oxygen atom, and R^6 and R^7 are both hydrogen atoms.

11. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein v is 1 or 2.

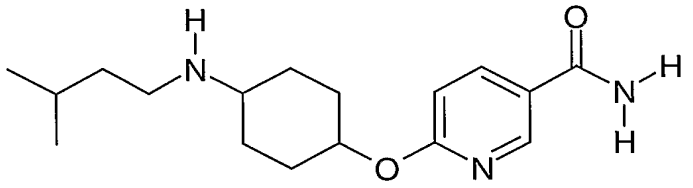
12. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein v is 1, m is 1, n is 1, y is 0 or 1 and z is 0 or 1.

13. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

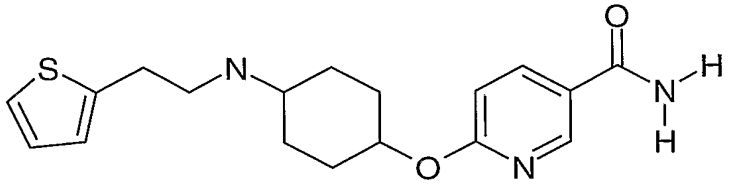
6-{4-[2-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl)-ethylamino]-cyclohexyloxy}-nicotinamide,



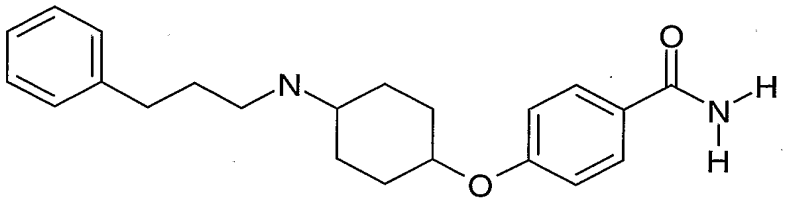
6-[4-(3-Methyl-butylamino)-cyclohexyloxy]-nicotinamide,



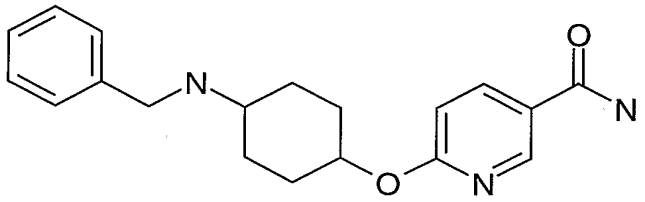
6-[4-(2-Thiophen-2-yl-ethylamino)-cyclohexyloxy]-nicotinamide



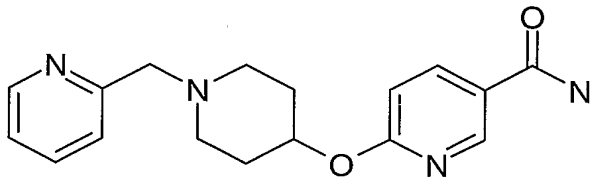
4-[4-(3-Phenyl-propylamino)-cyclohexyloxy]-benzamide



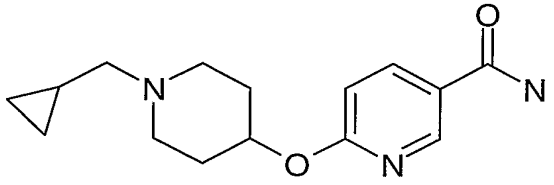
Trans-6-(4-Benzylamino-cyclohexyloxy)-nicotinamide,



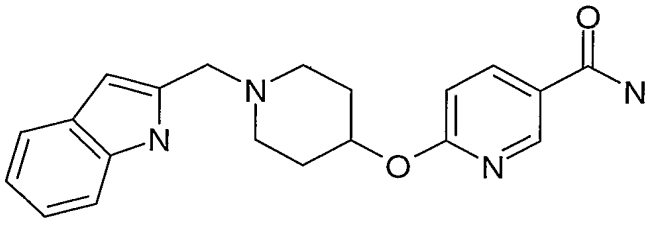
6-(1-Pyridin-2-ylmethyl-piperidin-4-yloxy)-nicotinamide



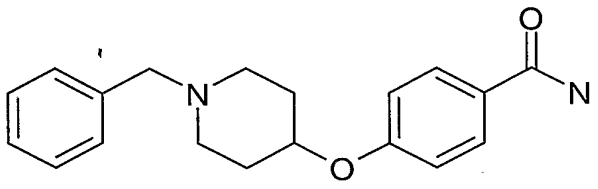
6-(1-Cyclopropylmethyl-piperidin-4-yloxy)-nicotinamide



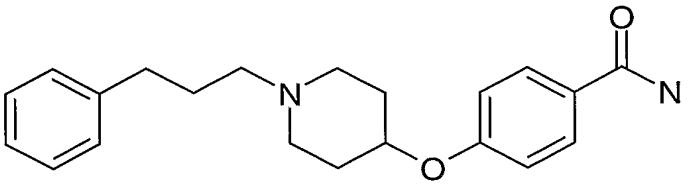
6-[1-(1H-Indol-2-ylmethyl)-piperidin-4-yloxy]-nicotinamide



4-(1-Benzyl-piperidin-4-yloxy)-benzamide,



4-[1-(3-Phenyl-propyl)-piperidin-4-yloxy]-benzamide



and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, enantiomer, diastereomer or a diastereomeric mixture thereof.

14. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is the hydrochloric acid salt, the methanesulfonic acid salt, hydrobromide salt, the bisulfate salt or tartaric acid salt.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 in association with a carrier, diluent and/or excipient.

16. A method for blocking a mu, kappa, delta or receptor combination (heterodimer) thereof in mammals comprising administering to a mammal requiring blocking of a mu, kappa, delta or receptor combination (heterodimer) thereof, a receptor blocking dose of a compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, racemate, mixture of diastereomers, or solvate thereof.

17. A method of treating and/or preventing diseases related to obesity including irritable bowel syndrome, nausea, vomiting, obesity-related depression, obesity–related anxiety, smoking and alcohol addiction, sexual dysfunction, substance abuse, drug overdose, addictive behavior disorders, compulsive behaviors metabolic

diseases and symptoms thereof, and stroke, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I.

18. A method of treating and/or preventing obesity and Related Diseases comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to a patient in need thereof.

19. A method of suppressing appetite in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I.

20. A method of effecting weight loss in an obese patient comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, racemate or enantiomer thereof.

21. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or amelioration of the symptoms associated with obesity and Related Diseases, containing as an active ingredient a compound of formula I according to Claim 1.